

CLAIMS

1. A bagless reclosable container for packaging non-liquid materials, comprising:
a box fabricated from a foldable substrate having a barrier material as at least one layer thereof, said box further comprising:
a tearable perforated opening formed from a series of cuts that do not penetrate the barrier material;
one or more fin seals; and
optionally a skived side seam; and
a reclosable, locking molded fitment mounted around the periphery of the tearable perforated opening of the box, wherein the molded fitment comprises a frame and a fitment lid; said molded fitment further comprising a first locking means for locking the fitment lid in the closed position; and further wherein the fitment lid remains open unaided during pouring.
2. The bagless reclosable container of claim 1, wherein the fitment lid is hingedly connected to the frame, and the first locking means is comprised of a first tab element placed in direct correspondence with a first slot element.
3. The bagless reclosable container of claim 2, wherein the fitment further comprises a second locking means for maintaining the fitment lid in the open position, said second locking means having a second tab element placed in direct correspondence with a second slot element.
4. The bagless reclosable container of claim 3, wherein the first tab element is appended outwardly from the lower edge of the frame, engageably positioned in relation to the first slot element positioned in the lower edge of the fitment lid; and the second tab element is positioned in the upper edge of the frame, engageably positioned in relation to the second slot element positioned in the upper edge of the fitment lid.
5. The bagless reclosable container of claim 1, comprising a fin seal at each of the upper and lower ends of the box.
6. The bagless reclosable container of claim 1, wherein the barrier material is substantially impermeable to light, oxygen, moisture vapor, gases or flavor components.
7. The bagless reclosable container of claim 1, wherein the barrier material is selected from the group consisting of metallized polyester, metallized polypropylene, metallized oriented

polypropylene, metallized biaxially oriented polypropylene, PVDC-coated polypropylene, ethylene vinyl alcohol, nylon, aluminum foil and combinations thereof.

8. The bagless reclosable container of claim 1, wherein the foldable substrate is selected from the group consisting of solid bleached sulfate (SBS) paperboard, clay-coated newsback (CCNB), coated solid unbleached sulfate (SUS), multi-ply folding box board, kraft paperboard, polymeric materials and any combination thereof.

9. A bagless, reclosable container for barrier packaging of dry materials, comprising:
a box fabricated from a foldable laminated substrate formed from:
at least one layer of polyethylene;
at least one layer of ethylene vinyl alcohol as a barrier material;
at least one layer of a paperboard substrate;
the box further comprising a perforated opening formed from a series of laser cuts that do not penetrate the at least one layer of ethylene vinyl alcohol;
fin seals forming the top and bottom closures of the box and a skived side seam; and
a reclosable, locking molded fitment mounted around the periphery of the perforated opening, wherein the molded fitment comprises a frame having an upper edge and a lower edge, and a fitment lid having an upper edge and a lower edge; said molded fitment further comprising a first locking means for locking the fitment lid in the closed position, wherein the fitment lid remains open unaided in the open position.

10. The bagless, reclosable container of claim 9, wherein the first locking means is comprised of a first tab element in direct correspondence with a first slot element.

11. The bagless, reclosable container of claim 10, further comprising a second locking means for locking the fitment lid in the open position, said second locking means having a second tab element placed in direct correspondence with a second slot element.

12. The bagless reclosable container of claim 11, wherein the first tab element is appended outwardly from the lower edge of the frame, engageably positioned in relation to the first slot element positioned in the lower edge of the fitment lid; and the second tab element is positioned in the upper edge of the frame, engageably positioned in relation to the second slot element positioned in the upper edge of the fitment lid.

13. A bagless reclosable container for packaging non-liquid materials, comprising:

a box fabricated from a foldable substrate, comprising a perforated opening; and
a reclosable, locking molded fitment mounted around the periphery of the perforated opening of the box, wherein the molded fitment comprises a frame and a fitment lid; said molded fitment further comprising a first locking means for locking the fitment lid in the closed position and a second locking means for locking the fitment lid in the open position.

14. A method of packaging non-liquid materials that are susceptible to oxygen, light, moisture vapor or other gases to extend the shelf life thereof, comprising:
 - forming a box from a laminated substrate having at least one layer of a barrier material, in a process comprising:
 - cutting a blank from the laminated substrate; scoring said blank with fold lines to form front, rear and side panels and a flange;
 - laser-cutting a series of cuts to form a tearable perforated opening on the surface of the blank, wherein the cuts do not penetrate the barrier material;
 - folding the blank along said fold lines, optionally skiving the flange and affixing the outer surface of the flange to the inner surface of the rear panel to form a side seam; and
 - fin sealing one end of the package to form a box;
 - filling the box with a non-liquid material requiring protection from light, oxygen or moisture vapor;
 - fin-sealing the other end of the box; and
 - affixing a reclosable locking fitment over the perforated opening.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein the fin seals are formed by a heat-sealing process.